

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5277

E.O. 11652: GDS: 12-31-80

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO SATCOM ORGANIZATIONS

A. USNATO 5070

B. AC/270-D/109

C. NICSMA COM(74)493

D. NICSMA/MR874)4

SUMMARY: THE PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) OF THE SATCOM INTEROPERABILITY TECHNICAL PANEL (REF C) APPARENTLY DUPLICATE IN PART THE TOR OF THE SATCOM CONTINGENCY PLANNING GROUP (SCCPG). ALSO, BY REF D, DG NICSMA PROPOSES DISBANDING SCCPG AND MARITIME SATCOM INTEROPERABILITY WORKING GROUP AND ABSORBING FUNCTIONS IN NICSMA. MAJOR NATO COMMANDS AND SOME NATIONS OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL. SCCPG WILL RECOMMEND TO NATO JOINT COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE( NJCEC) THAT IT ASK THE THE JOINT CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE A REPORT ON STACOM PLANNING. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT US SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENATION AND THAT US WITHHOLD FORMAL APPROVAL OF REF C. END SUMMARY.

1. PARA 3 OF REF A PRESENTS THE ISSUE OF APPARENTLY DUPLICATIVE (AND PERHAPS COMPETING) SATCOM ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN NATO. THE SCCPG OPERATES UNDER TOR (REF B) WHICH THE NJCEC ISSUED. ITS CHAIRMAN IS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (VAN DER WILLIGEN). THE MARITIME SATCOM INTEROPERABILITY WORKING GROUP ALSO OPERATES UNDER TOR WHICH THE NJCEC ISSUED. THE DG NICSMA IS ITS NOMINAL CHAIRMAN.

AT A RECENT MEETING, THIS LATTER GROUP DECIDED THAT IT NEEDS SUPPORT FROM A TECHNICAL GROUP. IN RESPONSE THE DG NICSMA DISPATCHED REF C WHICH PRESENTS PROPOSED TOR FOR A SATCOM INTEROPERABILITY TECHNICAL PANEL (SITP). THIS MESSAGE AND ANOTHER NICSMA DOCUMENT, REF D, FORCED THE ISSUE INTO THE OPEN.

2. OPEN DISCUSSIONS AMONG NATO AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES FOCUS ON THE TWO NICSMA DOCUMENTS, REF C AND D, AND EACH BECOMES AN ISSUE IN ITSELF. THE ARGUMENTS, PRO AND CON, ADDRESS THE OVERLAP OF FUNCTION, THE COMPARATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS, AND THE ASSIGNED FUNCTIONS AND AUTHORITIES OF THE DG NICSMA. MAJOR NATO COMMANDER (MNC) REPS ARGUE THAT OPERATIONAL

ASPECTS (WHICH ARE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY) WOULD BE SUBORDINATED TO TECHNICAL ONES IF NICSMA HAS THE PLANNING RESPONSIBILITY. NOT STATED OPENLY, BUT APPARENTLY MOTIVATING SOME OPPOSITION TO REFS C AND D, IS CONCERN OVER THE COMPETENCE AND CAPABILITY OF NICSMA TO UNDERTAKE THE SATCOM PLANNING FUNCTION. THE DELAYS IN THE NATO INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (NICS) AND THE PAST CONTENTION BETWEEN NICSMA AND THE MNCS OVER OPERATIONS OF NICS GIVE SUPPORT TO ARGUMENTS AGAINST NICSMA RECEIVING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

ADDITIONALLY, NICSMA MANAGEMENT OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING COULD TEND TO REDUCE SATCOM PROGRAM INFORMATION INTERCHANGE AMONG THE ALLIES AND BETWEEN THEM AND NATO.

3. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT US SUPPORT SCCPG RECOMMENDATION  
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IN PARA 4C OF REF A THAT NJCEC TASK THE JOINT COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS WORKING GROUP (JCEWG) TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE PROBLEM. INSTRUCTIONS BY NJCEC COULD BE EXPANDED TO REQUIRE THAT JCEWG RECOMMEND AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR SATCOM PLANNING. THIS STRUCTURE SHOULD RECOGNIZE PRESENTLY ASSIGNED ROLES OF NICSMA AND MNCS FOR REQUIREMENTS, PLANNING, AND OPERATION AND SHOULD FACILITATE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS AND NATO.

4. MISSION ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT US NOT, REPEAT NOT, FORMALLY APPROVE TOR OF SITP (REF C) AT THIS TIME. THIS PANEL CAN CONTINUE WORK ON AD HOC BASIS UNTIL THE SATCOM PLANNING ISSUES ARE RESOLVED. MCAULIFFE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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